

Child killed in JTF, Boko Haram crossfire in Maiduguri

From Nazifi Dawud Khalid, Maiduguri

A child was said to have been killed on Friday in a gunfire exchange between suspected members of the Jama'atu Ahlu Sunnah Lidda'awati walJihad, popularly known as Boko Haram, and men of the Joint Task Force (JTF) at Gwange ward in Maiduguri at around 7:30pm.

A witness who craved anonymity told *Sunday Trust* that a stray bullet from the crossfire between soldiers and some unidentified gunmen hit the child who was riding a bicycle around the area.

Another resident of the area, Hassan Koba, who showed our reporter his fractured wrist, said he sustained the injury in a desperate struggle to rush back to his house upon hearing sporadic gunshots.

He said, "I had just finished eating and was about to go for prayer when I heard shots fired

sporadically. As I was running back to my house for safety, I fell down and injured my wrist".

Before the incident, it was gathered that gunmen who came in a Honda saloon car, had earlier notified residents of Gwange of their plan to attack members of the JTF and warned them to vacate their business centres.

Shortly after issuing the warning, the gunmen struck with AK47 rifles and engaged the JTF men in a shootout after which they immediately fled the scene.

The incident, it was learnt, caused so much fear among residents that most of them fled their homes and spent the night elsewhere.

When contacted Col. Victor Ebheleme, the JTF head of field operations, confirmed the incident but affirmed that there was no casualty in the attacks.